

Railroad Engineer

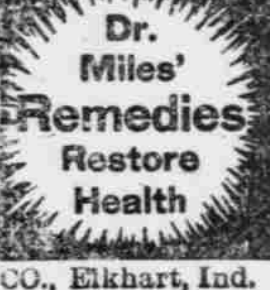
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YARNS ABOUT GOULD.

INCIDENTS SHOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FINANCIER.

He Avoided Newspaper Men, but a Denver Reporter Trapped Him Once—Sent One Man to Jim Keene—How He Learned That Whisky Was a Bad Surveyor.

There was nothing he detested more than newspaper notoriety. He used to dodge reporters, and only one of them, as far as known, ever fairly outwitted him. Fred Skiff, the city editor of the Denver Tribune, detailed reporter after reporter to interview Mr. Gould during one of his visits to Colorado, but each brought back word that the little railroad king would not be seen and had posted sentinels all along the hotel corridors to drive intruders away. So Skiff set out to do the job himself. He hunted up a friendly Pullman car conductor and borrowed his uniform. Then he walked into the hotel and up the stairs.

"Look a-here," said he to the first sentinel he met, "what does Mr. Gould propose to do about that car? I must know right away, for if he isn't going to use it tomorrow I've got to take it back to Chicago."

The sentry knew nothing about the car, of course, and advised Skiff to see Gould about it himself. So Skiff successfully ran the gauntlet of the half dozen lackeys, growing all the time about the bother of being compelled to attend to other people's business. Judge Usher, one of Gould's attorneys, who was in consultation with his client when the bogus sleeping car conductor was shown in, immediately recognized Skiff, having known him back in Kansas.

"When did you get out of the newspaper business?" inquired the astonished lawyer. "I ain't out of it," replied Skiff, "but I had to put on this disguise in order to get in here to interview Mr. Gould."

"Young man," said Mr. Gould sternly, "if you're a reporter, you can take yourself right out of the room, for I am not to be interviewed."

Skiff argued the point and not being invited to be seated coolly sat down on the floor.

"Unless you put me out," said he, "I shall stay here till you tell me what your plans are."

This audacity pleased Gould. He looked at Usher, and seeing the lawyer chuckling heartily broke out into a loud laugh.

"Well, what do you want to know?" he said finally in the tone of a man who is wearied with objecting.

Skiff knew he had triumphed. He produced his notebook, drew up to the table at which Gould sat and set industriously to work putting out questions and noting the replies. The result was a reliable forecast of the immense railroad enterprise in which Gould subsequently embarked, and of which the public would not otherwise have been forewarned.

Less happy was the fate of the Chicago reporter who followed Gould by rail down into Indiana and finally overhauled his special car and knocked at the door. Mr. Gould responded in person, and the reporter held up his card so that his victim could read it through the glass window.

"The Chicago Bugle wants your opinion," he shouted, "on the question of refunding the 6 per cents."

Mr. Gould regarded him through the glass with such a frigid expression that the interviewer has shivered at the mere memory of it ever since, but finally opened the door on a crack and asked:

"Young man, do you want me?"

"Yes, sir. I want to interview you on the subject of"—

Mr. Gould began to shut the door.

"On the subject of the devil!" yelled the indignant reporter as he saw all his hopes fading away.

"Young man," said Mr. Gould, opening the door once more an inch or two, "on that subject you had better see Jim Keene. He's got all the points and is anxious to give them away to spite old Flood!"

Gould always believed that the secret of his ability to overcome others in any contest of wits was his temperate habit of life. He never tasted whisky but once. In the days when he was a surveyor in a small way and was mapping a county on the practical line of getting lodgings and meals of the farmers in exchange for marking correct sundials on their doorsteps he became tired one hot, dusty afternoon. He came to a country tavern. In his pocket was a 5 cent piece. It suddenly struck him that as a medicine to relieve faintness he ought to buy a glass of whisky with his nickel. "I was ignorant of bar usage," he said once in describing the incident to a friend, "and so when a glass and a bottle were set before me I filled the tumbler chock full. The bartender made no protest, and I swallowed the big horn. Then I went my way, trundling my wheelbarrow like measure of distances and occasionally taking the bearings with a sextant. Never in my life had my work gone off half so blithesomely, and for awhile I felt as though making a map of the starry heavens instead of a very dusty portion of this mundane sphere. After an hour or more of exaltation I grew sleepy and took a long nap under a tree in a field. I awoke with an awful headache and found that the figures entered in my notebook during the time of extra steam were quite incoherent. I was fully convinced that whisky was a bad surveyor, and I have never tried it for any other purpose."—Cor. Kate Field's Washington.

Tea as Medicine.

In some forms of heart disease tea proves a useful sedative, while in others it is positively injurious. Many cases of severe nervous headache are instantly relieved by a cup of strong green tea, taken without the addition of either milk or sugar, but it should be only occasionally resorted to in such cases, it being much better to avoid the cause.—New York Journal.

A BOLD BURGLAR.

When I was engaged in my profession down south some years ago, I was called on to defend a young man whom I will call Jake, who was arrested for burglary. He was only 19, good looking and exceedingly bright. According to his story, which I found was true, he was left an orphan at an early age and was brought up by his grandmother, who kept a small store in a country town in Pennsylvania. While he was reading with a Presbyterian clergyman preparatory to his entering college, he became disgusted with his mode of life and started off to look for adventures. He wandered away on foot, and his money was soon spent, and he found himself one night moneyless and houseless and almost in rags. He came across a plantation, and the lights in the great house shone out bright and cheerful. He turned up a narrow path and soon found himself with only a narrow cusp between him and the house. He crept through the copse and saw that a large company thronged the big dwelling and were evidently having a good time. The parlors were crowded, and he saw that preparations had been made for private theatricals. Keeping in the shadows, he passed round to the side of the house and saw a window in the second floor brightly lighted. The sash was open, and a young man was inside, evidently putting on a dress for some part in a play. Presently the light was turned down, and the young man disappeared from the room. After a time Jake went cautiously toward the house and had a look at the situation of the window. Walking round to the rear, he came across a ladder, which he brought and placed so as to enable him to reach the window. He arranged himself in the ladder, and after satisfying himself that all was clear entered the room.

On the bed lay a full dress suit, no doubt laid aside by the recent occupant, and a handsome gold watch and chain attached to the vest. Patent leather shoes lay on the floor. On the dressing table was a pocketbook containing over \$600 in bills, and a diamond ring and pin lay near by. In a valise lying open on a chair were various articles of clothing. He threw off his brogues and put on the patent leathers. Then he drew on the trousers which were lying on the bed. His next act was to put on a shirt taken from the valise, a collar and a necktie. He arranged himself in the vest and dress coat and took a view of himself in the large glass. He unlocked the door, walked out boldly into the corridor and turned toward the capacious stairway. In the hall below gayly dressed people were walking around. Presently a bell rang, and these persons moved toward the parlors, into which they crowded. Jake calmly walked down stairs to approach the door of the parlors. After standing for a few minutes gazing on the scene he went toward the rack where hats and overcoats were hanging. Selecting a hat which he thought would fit him, he took it from the rack and placed it on his head. It fitted well. At the moment he was selecting an overcoat a servant approached and offered to help him. He put on the coat, with the aid of the servant, and saying, "I am just going for a stroll," he walked out of the door and away. He knew that there was a railroad station not far away, for he had seen the depot as he came along, and he turned his steps thitherward.

On reaching it he found that a train was due, and after asking the porter a few questions he took a ticket for a junction 20 miles away. The train came in a few minutes later, and he got on board and was soon steaming away. In the pocket of the overcoat he found a case of fine cigars, one of which he lit. On reaching the junction a train was waiting, into which he got and was whirled away, he cared not whither.

At daylight the train stopped for a quarter of an hour. The young man, who had purposely dropped his hat while looking out the car window, as the name on the hat might give him away, asked the conductor where he could get another hat. There was a store opposite the station, and to that the conductor directed him, and there he got a soft felt hat. Then he got something to eat and went off with the train. Of course I could tell you just where Jake stopped, but that's not necessary. By dusk he had reached a populous city, and there he parted with his overcoat and his dress coat and got new ones in their places. He went to a hotel and had a good feed and treated himself to a bottle of wine.

He was too restless to stay there all night, and so he took a train north, and in due time reached New York. He bought some things needed and put them in a valise. After seeing the town he determined to visit his old home, and you may be sure his old grandmother was surprised to see him. It was dusk when he arrived, and he invented a story to account for his absence and improved appearance. The old lady was suspicious and told him her mind, and he grew alarmed, fearing that she might do something to endanger his safety. After she was fast asleep he left the house, went to the railroad station a mile away and took a train for Ohio.

Now comes the remarkable part of the story. It looks like an invention, but it is very real. Jake reached the place to which he had taken his ticket next day and staid there for a few hours. Late in the afternoon he resolved to go farther west and went to the station. Many persons were waiting, as it was a junction, and several trains were expected. A series of whistles rang out, and an engine and tender appeared in a cutting approaching at a rapid rate. As the engine passed there was a loud report, and something shot up into the air. It turned out to be a broken nut. It descended with terrific force and injured a passenger on the platform of the station. His son and daughter, who were accompanying him home, rushed to the spot, and among the first to render aid was Jake. A doctor attended to the injured man, and he was removed to a hotel near by. The son had been attentively observing Jake for some time, and just as the wounded man was carried away his son said to Jake:

"Will you be good enough to tell me the time?"

The young fellow drew out the watch which he had stolen and told the time. The son turned aside and spoke to an official, and presently both came up to Jake, accompanied by another man. "This person," said the son, "has in his possession a watch and chain stolen from me at such a time and place. And he also wears a diamond pin taken at the same time. I request you to arrest him."—Exchange.

Preferable to Opera.

Herr Hugselspiel (sadly)—Ach, himmell! How is it you look so gay and happy when das German opera and all those Wagner singers are no longer here?

Herr Hornlebe (smilingly)—Hat Dose Wagner singers go, but I care not. I hat taken a room next by a dentist's office, and dot dentist is busy all day.—Chicago Record.



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